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Magyar Kozlony.

NEW DECREE REGULATING HUNGARIAN PRODUCERS' COOPERATIVES

Summary: A series of regulations tightening control over the producers' cooperatives (hereinafter cooperatives), as well as their individual members, was issued by the Hungarian Council of Ministers as Decree No 1,009 of 24 April 1952, entitled Decree on the Economic Stabilization of Producers' Cooperatives and the Strengthening of Their Labor Discipline.

The salient provisions of the decree are: (1) the wives and dependents of members are compelled to work in the cooperative; (2) cooperative members are allowed to engage in work outside the cooperative only with the permission of the chairman; (3) excess manpower will be assigned to outside employment by the cooperative chairman; and (4) if a cooperative fails to fulfill its delivery obligations, the deficient quantity of products must be supplied from the household plots of members or by purchase, provided that nonfulfillment is not due to causes beyond the control of the cooperative.

Responsibilities of Cooperative Chairmen

The chairman of the cooperative is responsible for the conduct of the cooperatives' affairs in accordance with the bylaws, the existing laws and decrees, and the resolutions of the membership and the executive committee on the basis of approved production plans.

The chairman is responsible for a continuous increase in crop yields and income. It is his duty to introduce the best production methods, prepare production plans, organize brigades, appoint qualified brigade leaders, and instruct the latter in the performance of their work.

The chairman is personally responsible for the fulfillment of cooperative obligations to the state, including compulsory deliveries, and for the maintenance

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of firm labor discipline. He shall see that all members, together with their dependents who are able to perform agricultural work, participate regularly in the joint effort.

#### Responsibilities of Brigades, Work Teams, and Members

The cooperatives are required to employ the most advanced production methods in an effort to increase cooperative assets and the living standard of the members. Corn and sunflowers must be planted in squares; artificial pollenization must be used for corn, sunflower, leguminous fodders, and rye; and sugar beets, potatoes, corn, cotton, and flax must be hoed at least three or four times a year. The cooperatives are assisted by the agricultural experts of the jaras councils and machine stations.

To secure high crop yields, the sense of responsibility of cooperative members must be increased. For this purpose, plant production brigades should be formed for a period of several years, preferably for the duration of a planting cycle, and a specific area, together with the necessary farm equipment and draft animals, should be assigned to each brigade. Each brigade will be responsible for farming its area throughout the year in accordance with the production plans.

To ensure proper manual work, each brigade area planted in root crops should be divided among work teams. Within each work team, in turn, each team member will be responsible for a specific area assigned to him for cultivation.

Each brigade member, together with his wife and dependents, must participate regularly in the common work. Brigades and teams which perform their work regularly and on schedule and achieve or exceed the average yields specified in the plan, shall receive the following rewards: (1) for grains, corn, potatoes, poppy-seed, sunflower, and vegetables, one fourth of the surplus crop in kind, and (2) for sugar beets, cotton, flax, castor beans, and other industrial plants the cash value of one fourth of the surplus crop. A prerequisite for a reward is fulfillment of the compulsory delivery obligation of the cooperative in the plant in question.

#### Animal Husbandry

It is mandatory for all cooperatives to build up their livestock herds by their own means and to fulfill their delivery obligations in animal products. To achieve these ends, each cooperative must establish at least three livestock farms to raise cattle, pigs, and poultry, respectively. Efforts should also be made to raise sheep and waterfowl where possible. Sufficient grain and green fodder must be grown by each cooperative to feed its livestock, and special brigades are to be organized for cattle, pigs, poultry, sheep, etc.

#### Labor Discipline

The cooperatives can achieve their aims only by maintaining strict labor discipline. They must, therefore, see that every member, as well as his wife and dependents who are able to perform farm work, participate in the common work.

It is mandatory for each cooperative member to perform work equal to a minimum of 120 work units a year. The same rule applies to the dependents of cooperative members, both men and women, if their profession is farming. Mothers of small children are required to earn a minimum of 80 work units a year. The cooperatives should assist working mothers by establishing nurseries and other welfare institutions. Each cooperative worker is required to perform his or her work at the time and place directed by the chairman or brigade leader. A worker who fails to earn the required minimum number of work units is subject to penalty.

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Since rationing has been abolished, the total amount of grain remaining after the fulfillment of cooperative obligations may be divided among the members and their dependents according to work units. Advances during the year can be made only on work units actually earned and are limited to 50-60 percent of the share provided under the plan per work unit.

To assure a fair distribution of income, the brigade and work team leaders will keep a daily record of the work units earned by each worker separately. The chairman shall see that all members familiarize themselves with the method of computing work units. All open or concealed efforts to introduce the so-called "equal treatment" must be severely discouraged.

Working time should be utilized to the fullest extent when work is urgent, as is customary in farm work. Harmful views which are in conflict with the particular character of agriculture must be discouraged. Prompted by the enemy, attempts are often made to restrict working time to 8 hours a day, thereby interfering with production and causing damage to the workers.

All members and dependents must go to work regularly. Workers failing to do so will be fined one or two work units at the discretion of the membership. A worker who does not improve despite warnings and penalties and persists in serious violation of labor discipline may be excluded from the cooperative by the membership.

After 1 May 1952, cooperative members are allowed to accept work outside the cooperative only with the written permission of the chairman. Cooperative members engaged in outside work must be requested to return to the cooperative, unless they work on a state farm. Members refusing to comply with the request may be penalized and finally excluded from the cooperative by the membership.

Cooperatives which expect a labor surplus during certain periods of the year are required to make arrangements for the utilization of the excess manpower for the benefit of the national economy and the membership. For this purpose the chairman is authorized to enter into agreements with state farms or other agricultural or industrial establishments.

#### State Discipline

The cooperatives must set a good example of state discipline. They must fulfill all their obligations to the state, especially in compulsory deliveries, without delay. Surrender obligations must be fulfilled in every product and crop within the delivery dates.

The cooperative members are responsible collectively for the fulfillment of surrender obligations. They are required to make deliveries from their own household plots or other sources, if failure to fulfill surrender obligations resulted from the fault of the cooperative, for example, if the products required for compulsory delivery were partly or wholly distributed among the members or the yields were inadequate due to improper farming or slack work discipline or the products required for compulsory delivery were sold in the free market; etc. The chairman of the cooperative is personally responsible for the fulfillment of all cooperative obligations to the state.

The cooperative is authorized to distribute products among its members or to sell products on the free market only if the jaras representative of the Ministry of Collection has issued a certificate confirming fulfillment of delivery obligations. If this rule is disregarded, financial and other action must be taken against the cooperative's chairman and accountant and against management members who knew of the irregular distribution or sale but failed to object to it or prevent it. If, in the event of such violation, the cooperative fails to fulfill

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its delivery obligations from the household plots of members or from other sources, it is the duty of the chairman of the Jaras council to file a criminal suit against the chairman of the cooperative and the members who are responsible for the violation.

If a cooperative fails to fulfill its delivery obligations because it has distributed the necessary products among its members or sold them in the free market, the outstanding amount will be increased by 5 percent and as much as 10 percent if overdue for over 15 days. In the event of such delays a new delivery date will be set. Nonfulfillment at the new date will be penalized by a fine payable from the cash due to the cooperative members for work units earned. However, the fine is limited to 25 percent of the amount of cash due for work units during any one year, and the balance may be transferred to the following year. Payment of the fine does not exempt the cooperative from its obligation to deliver the overdue products.

If the cooperative is unable to fulfill its surrender obligations as a result of damage caused by the weather, destruction of seed, casualties among the livestock, etc., and obtains a reduction in land tax due to such losses, the delivery obligations will be reduced in the same proportion as the land tax.

The cooperative is entitled to a reward only if it has fulfilled its delivery obligations in all products for the preceding month or quarter. The chairmen of Jaras councils are required to supervise personally the fulfillment of delivery obligations by the cooperatives.

#### The Transferable Banner

The Council of Ministers will award transferable banners and the title of "Az ország elenjaró termelöszövetkezeti gazdasága" (Leading producers' cooperative farm of the country) to the three best cooperatives which achieve high production results and fulfill or exceed their delivery obligations punctually. In addition to the banner, the best cooperative will receive a cash award of 100,000 forints; the second best, 50,000 forints; and the third best, 25,000 forints.

The rules for qualifying for the banner and the cash awards are as follows: (1) observance of the bylaws and government decrees, maintenance of the principles of cooperative democracy, maintenance of firm labor discipline, and exemplary order on the farm; (2) fulfillment or overfulfillment of the plant and livestock production plans and completion of farm work on schedule; and (3) punctual fulfillment of surrender obligations.

The banner, the title of "Az ország elenjaró termelöszövetkezeti gazdasága", and the cash reward will be adjudicated by the Council of Ministers on the basis of the joint recommendation of the Termelöszövetkezeti Tanács (Council of Producers' Cooperatives) and the Minister of Agriculture on the 31 December of every year.

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